

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /044 W

-----140953Z 031767 /15

R 140935Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9220

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 3439

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT TH

SUBJECT: LABOR STRIKE AT JUTE MILL

REF: BANGKOK 2183

1. RTG CONTINUES TO TAKE TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD LABOR UNREST. FOLLOWING SERIES OF WILDCAT ACTIONS IN LATE JANUARY, INTERNAL PEACE-KEEPING DIRECTOR ACM KAMON DECHATUNGKHA ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ANY STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT DURING MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. (SEE REFTTEL)

2. THE LATEST INCIDENT OF LABOR UNREST OCCURRED FEBRUARY 9-10 AT THE UNITED GRAIN JUTE MILL IN SAO HAI DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO BANGKOK PAPERS, FACTORY MANAGEMENT ORDERED A 30-MINUTE EXTENSION OF THREE WORKSHIFTS WITHOUT GIVING WORKERS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION. IN RESPONSE 3,000 MILL WORKERS ORGANIZED A WILDCAT STRIKE ON FEBRUARY 9 AND SUBMITTED A LIST OF COUNTER-DEMANDS TO MANAGEMENT WHICH INCLUDED DEMANDS FOR: (1) RETURN TO THE FORMER WORKING HOURS, (2) A PAY INCREASE OF TWO BAHT (US 10 CENTS) PER DAY, AND (3) NO DISMISSAL OR LAYOFF OF STRIKE REPRESENTATIVES. REGIONAL POLICE QUICKLY INTERVENED BY SENDING A SPECLAI ACTION FORCE TO PROTECT PROPERTY, MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER

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AND ENCOURAGE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE. THE STRIKE ENDED ON THE SECOND DAY WHEN MANAGEMENT RESCINDED THE NEW WORK SCHEDULE. ON FEBRUARY 11 POLICE ARRESTED TEN STRIKE LEADERS "ON CHARGES RANGING FROM ENDANGERING SOCIETY TO INSTIGATING UNREST".

3. COMMENT: RTG PLACES HIGH PRIORITY ON MAINTAINING LABOR

STABILITY AS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTING INVESTMENT BY BUSINESS
COMMUNITY AND FURTHERING OVERALL ECONOMIC GROWTH. IN
SHORT RUN, THIS APPARENTLY MEANS FAIRLY HEAVY-HANDED
SUPPRESSION OF LABOR DEMANDS.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PENAL SYSTEM, MARTIAL LAW, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO03439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770051-0887
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770246/aaaabohq.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b056ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 2183
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3332770
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR STRIKE AT JUTE MILL
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TH, (KAMON DECHATUNGKHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b056ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009